

Message Text

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43

ACTION DEAE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SNM-02 /024 W

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R 081520Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MILAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3460

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEA HEADQUARTERS FOR ANTONELLI

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEA BOSTON REGIONAL OFFICE AND DEA HARTFORD
DISTRICT OFFICE

EMBASSY ROME FOR DEA SILVESTRI AND CUSTOMS ATTACHE VERUSIO

ALL OTHER POSTS FOR DEA AND CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES

REFS: A. ROME 5059 B. LONDON 06499

1. DIRECTOR OF CURRENCY CONTROL, DIONISIOS ZIANNIS
(POLICE DIRECTORATE CITIES POLICE) ADVISED EMBASSY
SECURITY OFFICIAL MAY 7 THAT YACHT MARIOLA WAS RAIDED
APRIL 26 AND THAT CAPTAIN JOHN CLIGG (UK CITIZEN) WAS
ARRESTED,
BUT THAT AMCIT GERALD JOHN PALMER NOT ON BOARD (SEE BOTH
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REFTELS FOR BACKGROUND THE CASE). SPECIFIC CHARGES ALLEGED

AGAINST CLIGG ARE (A) VIOLATION GREEK COAST GUARD REGULATIONS, (B) POSSESSION OF LARGE QUANTITIES DRACHMAS WITHOUT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS THAT THEY RESULTED FROM LEGITIMATE EXCHANGE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AND (C) ACTING AS ACCESSORY TO GERALD JOHN PALMER IN HIS PURPORTED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

2. IN STATEMENT TO POLICE, CLIGG ALLEGED HE AND YACHT WERE CHARTERED BY PALMER AND ITALIAN CITIZEN CESARE BABATTI (PARA 4 REFTTEL A) FROM LONDON. CLIGG ALLEGES BABATTI IS "BOSS OF ILLEGAL CURRENCY GANG". (NOTE: WHEN POLICE RAIDED YACHT, 220,000 DRACHMAS WERE FOUND ON BOARD.) CLIGG STATED THAT YACHT WAS CHARTERED FOR VOYAGE PATRAS-PAXI-BRINDISI-PIRAEUS. CLIGG ALLEGES THAT BABATTI, PALMER AND "ANOTHER GIRL" WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET YACHT IN POROS OR TURKOLIMANO BUT THEY NEVER MADE AN APPEARANCE. CLIGG ALLEGED TO POLICE HIS BELIEF THAT BABATTI MIGHT ALSO BE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING PRECIOUS STONES.

3. DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS REFERRED CASE TO INVESTIGATING JUDGE FOR FURTHER STUDY. IN MEANTIME DA HAS PERMITTED CLIGG TO BE RELEASED BUT HAS PROHIBITED HIS DEPARTURE FROM GREECE BEFORE TRIAL.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY NARCOTICS INVOLVEMENT IN THIS CASE.
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEA BOSTON, DEA HARTFORD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, DRUG TRAFFIC, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS03460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0403
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750567/aaaacjhy.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DEAE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ROME 5059, 75 LONDON 06499
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SNAR, GR, (CLIGG, JOHN), (PALMER, GERALD JOHN)
To: STATE ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006